

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:RLDANKERT:FMC

APPROVED BY EA/J - MR. SHERMAN

S/FW-COA - MR. BLOW

D/LOS - MR. NORDQURST (PHONE)

----- 038168

R 152204Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP

SUBJECT: BRISTOL BAY SALMON

REF: A) TOKYO 6273

B) VIENNA 4242

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA PROVIDED FOLLOWING TALK-
ING PAPER ON VOLUNTARY ABSTENTION MEASURES BY JAPANESE
SALMON FLEET TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL MAY 14.
YASUKAWA AFFIRMED THAT THIS POSITION WAS SIMILAR TO THE
US NEGOTIATING POSITION IN DECEMBER PRIOR TO THE CLOSURE
TO COMMERCIAL FISHING OF THE BRISTOL BAY SALMON RUN.
YASUKAWA SAID HE FULLY REALIZED THIS POSITION WOULD NOT
SATISFY THE ALASKANS COMPLETELY BUT HOPED IT WOULD BE
ACCEPTED IN WASHINGTON AS INDICATION OF JAPANESE DESIRE
TO COOPERATE. AMBASSADOR INGERSOLL AGREED THIS POSITION
REPRESENTED SOME PROGRESS, BUT HE NOTED AS WELL THAT
GOVERNOR EGAN HAD DECLARED BRISTOL BAY A STATE DISASTER
AREA IN MAY AND SOUGHT THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE IT A
DISASTER AREA AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL AND TO PROVIDE RELIEF.

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YASUKAWA EMPHASIZED THE GOJ'S SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THESE

VOLUNTARY MEASURES BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET ALLEGATION THAT JAPAN IS MORE COOPERATIVE IN CONSERVATION OF NORTH AMERICAN SALMON THAT IT IS WITH ASIAN SPECIES. WE AGREED THAT JAPAN'S VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE ALASKANS ON A PRIVATE BASIS.

2. YASUKAWA DID NOT MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE EXTENDED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON ANADROMOUS SPECIES AS REFERRED TO BY AMBASSADOR SUGIHARA IN VIENNA, BUT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH STEVENSON FOR TOMORROW.

3. BEGIN TEXT JAPANESE EMBASSY TALKING PAPER:

A. THE JAPANESE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY WILL TAKE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS IN 1974. FROM MAY 15 TO JUNE 20, IT WILL CEASE CATCHING SALMON (1) IN THE WATERS BETWEEN 176 30' EAST LONGITUDE AND 1750 WEST LONGITUDE, SOUTH OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND NORTH OF 480 NORTH LATITUDE, AND (2) IN THE WATERS BETWEEN 180 AND 1750 WEST LONGITUDE, NORTH OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND SOUTH OF 560 NORTH LATITUDE.

B. EXPLANATION

(1) UNDER THE CONVENTION, JAPAN HAS NO LEGAL OBLIGATION REGARDING SALMON FISHING IN THE WATERS WEST OF THE PROVISIONAL LINES OF 1750 WEST LONGITUDE. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THAT IN 1974, ONLY A VERY LOW LEVEL OF RETURN OF BRISTOL BAY SOCK-EYE SALMON IS EXPECTED, AND THAT UNITED STATES COASTAL FISHERIES PEOPLE ARE FACING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE RESOURCES, THE JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GREATEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO CONSERVE THE RESOURCES, HAS TAKEN AS VOLUNTARY MEASURES OF THE JAPANESE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY IN 1974, THOSE MEASURES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH A.

(2) THE JAPANESE SIDE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE MEASURES DESCRIBED IN A. ABOVE WILL HAVE A VERY POSITIVE
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EFFECT IN RESTORING THE RESOURCES.

(3) THE SAID MEASURES WILL GREATLY NARROW THE FISHING AREAS OF THE JAPANESE MOTHER-SHIP-TYPE SALMON FISHING, AND JAPANESE FISHING OF ASIAN SALMON WILL SUFFER SERIOUS DAMAGE. IN THAT SENSE, THE MEASURES IN A. ABOVE WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH GREAT SACRIFICE TO THE RELATED JAPANESE INDUSTRIES. THE JAPANESE SIDE STRONGLY HOPES

THAT THE US SIDE WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

(4) THESE MEASURES SHOULD BE TREATED AS STRICTLY
CONFIDENTIAL AMONG JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

END TEXT. RUSH

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